IN THE SPECIFICATION:

FIGURE 2 is a flow diagram which illustrates the operation of communication system 10 and the interaction of both the initial BSC/PCF and the new BSC/PCF as a mobile unit, such as mobile unit 12, moves within the various cells of operation of system 10. The method begins at step 50 where a mobile unit initiates a data session. This may comprise for example, mobile unit 12 initiating contact with BTS 34 requesting a data session. BTS 34 would relay this request to BSC/PCF 38. The method then proceeds to step 52 where the initial BSC/PCF selects an initial PDSN from which to request services for the data session. Referring to FIGURE 1, BSC/PCF 38 would request a data session from PDSN 22 because of the round robin approach associated with BSC/PCF 38 and its ordering of addresses for various PDSNs used by BSC/PCF 38. BSC/PCF 38 would then send a session request message to PDSN 22 as reflected in step 54 in FIGURE 2. The method then proceeds to step 56 where PDSN 22 would access the current cluster session table stored in storage associated with PDSN 22. The cluster session table is a table which is kept by each member within cluster 32 and comprises session record for each existing data session. Each session record comprises a mobile user ID and the IP address of the PDSN which is servicing that mobile unit. PDSN 22 would utilize the mobile unit identifier associated with mobile unit 12 received in the request message from BSC/PCF 38 to access the cluster session table. If the PDSN 22 finds an existing session in progress associated with that mobile unit, the method proceeds from step 56 to step ~~58~~ 57 where a message is returned to the BSC/PCF 38 directing the BSC/PCF 38 to utilize an identified IP address associated with the PDSN that is already associated with a data session servicing that mobile unit identifier. The method then proceeds to branch point A which will be described more completely herein.